

Message Text

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TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, PLOS, SP, US

SUBJ: US/GOS EXPLORATORY TALKS ON GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL
FISHERY AGREEMENT (GIFA)

REF: STATE 221270

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED GIFA EXPLORATORY TALKS ON SEPTEMBER 13 WITH VICTOR MORO RODRIGUEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARITIME FISHING IN SPANISH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE; JAVIER CONDE DE LARO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHING RELATIONS; AND VICENTE BERMEJO, CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION. MORO STATED THAT HE WOULD HEAD SPANISH TEAM, WHICH WILL INCLUDE CONDE, JOSE ANTONION LOPEZ ZATON (MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS), TWO SPANISH MARINE BIOLOGISTS (ONE FROM OCEANOGRAPHY INSTITUTE AND ONE FROM FISHING INSTITUTE), AND 4-6 REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE FISHING INDUSTRY.

2. MORO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF TALKS TO SPAIN, NOTING THAT POLITICAL ASPECTS SHOULD PLAY DOMINANT ROLE OVER NARROW ECONOMIC INTERESTS. LATTER, HOWEVER, PLAY FAR GREATER ROLE IN SPANISH ECONOMY THAN IN AMERICAN SINCE "WE FISH SIMPLY TO EAT, NOT TO SELL TO THIRD COUNTRIES". ACCORDING TO MORO ABOUT 150,000 SPANIARDS ARE EMPLOYED DIRECTLY IN FISHING INDUSTRY, WITH
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PERHAPS ANOTHER 100,000 IN AUXILIARY FIELDS. ALTHOUGH

TALKS ARE ONLY EXPLORATORY MORO WARNED THAT THERE IS DANGER THAT SOME PARTS OF SPANISH PRESS WILL UTILIZE ANY SIGNS OF RESTRICTIONS ON SPANISH FISHERMEN TO MOUNT ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN. IN GENERAL SPANIARDS HAVE NO GREAT PROBLEMS WITH TERMS OF SAMPLE AGREEMENT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY US, BUT MORO SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT US OFFICIALS WOULD KEEP IN MIND IMPORTANCE OF FISHING TO ALL SPANIARDS COMAPRED WITH RELATIVELY SMALL REGIONAL INTERESTS IN US.

3. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AFTER MEETING WITH MORO, CONDE (WHO WAS TRANSFERRED TO PRESENT JOB FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER) BROUGHT UP COUPLE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES. ACCORDING TO CONDE, SAMPLE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT WHEN INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT, COUNTRY WHOSE VESSELS ARE INSPECTED WILL PAY INSPECTION COSTS. SPANIARDS SIMPLY CANNOT COMPREHEND RATIONALE, IN CONDE'S WORDS, OF "DOUBLE JEOPARDY" WHEREBY THEIR VESSELS WOULD NOT ONLY LOSE VALUABLE FISHING TIME BUT ALSO HAVE TO PAY FOR BEING INSPECTED. SECOND POINT WAS MORE GENERAL WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING SOME FORM OF COOPERATIVE FISHING PROGRAM, PERHAPS THROUGH CREATION OF JOINT VENTURES. CONDE STATED THAT HE VIEWED TWO BASIC AMERICAN GOALS AS OPTIMUM EXPLOITATION OF MARITIME RESOURCES AND EXCLUSION OF NON-AMERICANS FROM SHARING IN EXPLOITATION. IN HIS OPINION THESE GOALS ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE, BECAUSE HIGH COSTS OF AMERICAN FISHING INDUSTRY WOULD PRECLUDE FULL USE OF POTENTIAL RESOURCES. POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE JOINT VENTURE, UTILIZING SPANISH MANPOWER AND AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY. CONDE STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME RESTRICTION IN US LAW AGAINST SUCH ENTERPRISES BUT IN ANY CASE HE HOPES TO DISCUSS THE IDEA INFORMALLY NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY RECOGNIZES MORO'S DESIRE TO EASE SPANISH NEGOTIATING TASK AND OBTAIN MAXIMUM BENEFITS FOR SPANIARDS IN ULTIMATE AGREEMENT. WITHOUT IGNORING LEGITIMATE US FISHING INTERESTS, HOWEVER, EMBASSY AGREES THAT POLITICAL/PUBLIC RELATIONS FACTORS SHOULD RECEIVE CLOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTENTION DURING TALKS.
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